

Black Frog



SEPTEMBER 15th, 1982

Black Frog #59

Black Frog #59

.....

Black Frog is a Diplomacy 'zine published by Jack Masters, 25711 North Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. (805) 259-2811. New subs are not available. There is no charge for continuation of subs, but if you are a pubber, I expect a trade in exchange. The circulation for this issue of BF has dropped all the way down to 45.

.....

.....

.....: If the box at the left is checked, you are in
.....: dire danger of losing your sub, unless you can
.....: give me a convincing reason for continuing it.

.....

Possibly you never expected to see a copy of Black Frog again. Surprise! I had a rather busy summer and took off from publishing this rag. I never actually planned it this way it just happened. In early June I left my job (of two months) with Hitco and went to work for Northrop. Hitco convinced that I couldn't leave that quickly and I ended up working at both jobs for over three weeks. Working 60 to 70 hours per week kept me busy enough that I was not able to spend a lot of time thinking about publishing a 'zine or playing postal Diplomacy. Then in July I went on vacation (having prearranged this as an employment condition at Northrop). Nearly two weeks of rafting in Utah also was not conducive to thinking about postal Diplomacy or publishing a zine. After the delay in June and early July, I did pick up Gm'ing the three games--but they were published by letter instead of by zine.

The two month delay in publication of game results did cause a great deal of consternation among the players. I apologize for this and I hope (but won't guarantee) that it won't happen again. One result of the delay is that 1981K (Greed) has been transferred to a new gamemaster. I wish the game (and players) well, but the transfer was done rather poorly (I thought) (see page 8).. There was also consideration for transfer of 1980KJ (V.I.P.) but it is still here as one player objected to transfer to a zine with a DIAS rule.

FRAN (Brown) F NAF-Tun; F WES(s) F Naf-Tun; F MAR(h); F
MAO-Spa(sc); A Par-BUR; A RUH(s) A Par-Bur; A KIE(h);
A DEN(s) A Kie; F Nth-MWY; F SKA(s) F Nth-Nwy; N Nwn-
Bar.

GERM (Callagher) A MUN(s) A Ber; A BER(s) A Mun.

ITAL (Hugh) F TYR-Tun; F NAP-Tyr; A Pie-TYO; A TRI(s) A Pie-
TyO.

RUSS (Wells) F SWE(h); A WAR(s) A Mos; A MOS(s) A War; A
STP(s) A Mos; A LIV(s) A War.

TURK (Arnett) F ION(s) Italian F Tyr-Tun; F Alb-ADR; F Con-
BUL(sc); F Eas-AEG; A Gal-SIL; A VIE(s) A Bud-Gal;
A Bud-GAL; A UKR(s) A Bud-Gal; A SEV(s) A Ukr.

.....
1908 Supply Center Chart...

FRA: Home, England, NWY, Den, Kie, Hol, Bel, Por
& Spa (13) build 2

GER: Ber, Mun (2) even

ITA: Home, Tun, Tri (5) build 1

RUS: Mos, War, Stp, Swe, ~~Nwy~~ (4) lose 1

TUR: Home, Bul, SEV, Rum, Bud, Gre, VIE (9) ...

..... build 1

AUS: ~~Nwy~~ (0) out

.....

Winter 1908 will be issued as soon as I hear from all
parties involved ... or in 15 days, whichever occurs first.
Spring 1910 will be Wednesday October 13th in any case.
There is a proposal for an I/P/T draw, please vote on this
with your spring orders.

.....

There has been a request to reprint Bill Hugh's
address (what Turkey could want this?). Bill Hugh, 17622
Jordan #20-D, Irvine, CA 92715.

.....

Press: ITALY to SWIT: Dear Zeus, This is your loving
son--Sam--the Jewish kid who's trying to revolutionize the
Church. I'm the new kid on the "block" and no one seems
to like me as there hasn't been any communication as yet.
I've brushed my teeth daily, showered on a regular basis,
used deoderant every day and pop breath mints whenever I'm
in conversation or "close-up"; just as thou hast commanded
... and, yet, no word from the other fellas. What must I
do -- Oh Great One!! Your loving Son, SAM

.....

Note! (Just because there is a little room for it.)

Fall 1908 was an interesting season with Tunis being the
only territory being contested -- gm.

REAL MEN DON'T PLAY D & D

"Real Men Don't Eat Quiche" is a new book by Bruce Feirstein that has made a fairly big splash on the book-lists. The book is all fun and games, focusing on macho America--the guys with hairy chests.

Feirstein's point is that we've become a nation of wimps. "Quiche Eaters." The heroes are all gone. Instead of John Wayne, we get Alan Alda. Instead of Errol Flynn fighting the Commies and Nazis and the Japanese Imperial Marines for India, Burma, China and all points north, we get Dustin Hoffman fighting Meryl Streep for a 4-year old.

His points are telling:

Real Men don't do windows.
Real Men don't smoke low-tar cigarettes.
Real Men don't live in Palm Springs.
They live in Hemet.
Real Men always wear socks.
Real Men don't go to movies now that
John Wayne has died.

Feirstein has supplied a simple litmus test to tell the real from the wimpy.

"REAL MEN DON'T EAT QUICHE"

He even has Real Men jokes.

"How many Real Men does it take to change a light bulb?"

Answer: "None. Real Men aren't afraid of the dark."

.....

All of this got me to thinking. What about the Diplomacy hobby? What tests can we use to tell the Real Men from the "wimps", the "quiche eaters", the "doomies" in the hobby.

What follows are the guide lines that I have worked out after several months (... would you believe several

minutes?) of careful consideration. The rest of you are welcome (even Del Grande) are welcome to add your own criteria. (I mention Del Grande because I can almost bet that he will come back with some of his own.)

Let us be real Scientific about this and divide up into categories.

(a) How to tell the Real Men at a Con.

1. Real Men always play Diplomacy.
2. Real Men probably play nothing but Diplomacy.
3. Real Men never play D&D.
4. Real Men don't even know how to play D&D.
5. Real Men probably don't even know what D&D stands for.
6. Real Men abhor any game board with "hex-squares" on it.
7. Real Men never wear neckties.
8. Real Men never wear funny hats.
9. Real Men always wear shoes.
10. Real Men never carry around stacks of games under their arms.
11. Real Men are usually carrying a six-pack under their arm.
12. Real Men don't come to a Con hoping to meet Mark Berch.
13. Real Men come to a Con hoping to meet Kathy Byrne, or Mary Beck or Jane Proskin.
14. Besides, the last time I saw Mark Berch at a Con, he had just finished a plate of quiche.
15. Real Men don't come to Cons and then stay in a cheap motel with a dozen others (to cut costs).
16. Real Men stay in a first class hotel.
17. Or they sleep on the sidewalk.
18. Or they don't sleep.
19. Real Men don't threaten to get even if you stab them in your game at the Con.
20. Real Men get even if you stab them.
21. Real Men never walk away and leave a game after they have been knocked down to a couple of units.

22. The guy who leaves like this, with a couple of units on the board is either...
- (a) off to eat some quiche, or
 - (b) off to play D&D, or
 - (c) both.
23. Did you ever see them play D&D? They often eat quiche right in the middle of a game--without even stopping play.
24. Real Men probably don't smoke, but
25. They don't give a damn whether anybody else does or doesn't.
26. However, if you are smoking filter-tips, the Real Man probably won't ally with you in your game.
27. Speaking of allies, the Real Man will probably not ally with anybody who...
- (a) is under 14,
 - (b) who looks like he is under 14,
 - (c) is not wearing shoes,
 - (d) is not wearing a shirt,
 - (e) is wearing a tie,
 - (f) is wearing a funny D&D outfit,
 - (g) is under five feet tall,
 - (h) who suggest a "Hey Bresto" opening,
 - (i) who asks to see his orders before he turns them in,
 - (j) who says he knows Mark Berch,
 - (k) who is named Mark Berch
 - (l) who has zippers on his shoes,
 - (m) who is chewing bubble gum,
 - (n) is playing Austria,
28. Even if he is playing Austria himself.
29. Especially if he is playing Austria himself.

... Postnote! The above three pages were written back in May of 1982. At that time I had it all figured out just how I was going to continue the article--but my inspiration is gone now. Thus I am just going to let it stand as is.

CUTTING BACK ON THE HOBBY

It has been about ten months since I decided that I either had to get out of this hobby stone-cold, or at least cut back considerably. Actually I did stop stone-cold for 2½ months, but then decided that I must accept the responsibility and phase out slowly.

There has been one major problem in this. I find that I have to have a certain level of participation in order to maintain interest. Eighteen months ago when I had a high level of interest, I was playing in a dozen or more games and doing well in half of them. Over the past nine months I have been playing in three games only. Participation as a player in postal games is the only justification, to my way of thinking, for being in the hobby at all. Certainly it is the only activity that ever really maintained my interest.

Playing in three games is not enough to keep any level of interest on my behalf. One of these games (1980KZ in MM) could well end this month. This is the only one of the three in which I am doing at all well (...I will win 80KZ) and after it ends my interest will decline even more.

If it were only myself involved, what the hell, let the games decline and don't worry about it. But there are others involved. The players in the three games that I am still GMing. They deserve a GM that is reasonably active and involved in the hobby--otherwise they don't get a good game. And the players in the two remaining games (that I am in), they deserve a bit of competition.

A few months back Don Stafford (I remember Stafford in particular although there were others as well) got on my case for continuing to play in postal games while I was letting deadlines slip in the games I was gm'ing. Stafford called my irresponsible and sought to have Creed (1981K) moved to another 'zine. I really don't see how it would have been more responsible to NMR out of three games in addition to letting deadlines slip. Oh well!

In any case, in order to maintain a little interest in the hobby while I finish out the three games (80KJ, 81CD and 80HU) I am going to make myself available for some standby positions.

Bob Arnett, Allen Wells, Don Del Grande, Ron Brown, Gary Coughlan and Mike Conner -- you can put me on your list for one standby each--if you want.

ENGL (Quinn) F Nwn-NWY; F HEL-Den

FRAN (Gallagher) A EDI(h)/unordered/; F Lon-YOR; F Eng-LON; F Cly-NWN; F Ska-DEN; A Tyo-MUN; A BUR(s)A Tyo-Mun; A/BUR(s)/A/Tyo/Mun; F Smy-CON; F GRE(h); A Kie-Ber/annihilated/; A Bel-HOL; A RUH(s)A Bel-Hol.

ITAL (Langley) A Tri-SER; A Ven-TYO; A Vie-TRI; A Con-ANK; A BUL(s)A Bud-Rum; A BOH(s)French A Tyo-Mun; A Bud-RUM; A GAL-Ukr/dislodged and must retreat Vie, Bud or OTB/; A ARM-Sev; F Ion-AEG; F Tun-ION.

RUSS (Conner) F Nwy-SWE; A Hol-KIE; A BER(s)A Hol-Kie; A Sil-GAL; A WAR(s)A Sil-Gal; A Ukr(s)A Sil-Gal; A SEV-Rum/nsu/; F SEV(h)/unordered/; A MOS-Sev.

TURK (C.D.) F Bla(h).

1909 Supply Center Chart:

.....
 ENGL: Den, ~~Edi~~, NWY (2)even.
 FRAN: Home, Bel, Hol, Lon, Lpl, EDI; Mun, Spa, Por, Gre, Smy, CON (14)build ... (3)*
 ITAL: Home, Austria, Tun, Bul, ANK, ~~Lpl~~ (11) .. even unless A Gal retreat OTB then build (1)
 RUSS: Home, Ber, Kie, Swe, ~~Nwy~~ (7) drop (1)
 TURK: ~~Ank~~ (0)OUT

.....
 Both draw proposals failed again. Russia vetoed the I/F draw and Italy vetoed the F concession.

.....
 Winter 1909 will be issued as soon as I hear from all parties involved...or in 15 days, whichever occurs first. Spring 1910 will be Wednesday October 13th in any case.

PESTILENCE Press

France to Russia: You haven't made me an offer that I couldn't refuse.

Austria (Townsend) NMR! A Tri retreat OTB; no build.

England (Beck) No winter adjustments required.

France (Langley) Build F Bre and F Mar.

Italy (Sherwood) Build A Rome

Turkey (Callagher) Build A Say and A Con.

.....

Spring 1905 orders are due on Thursday September 30th, 1982. No standby players will be called for Germany or Austria. Townsend and Albrecht are still welcome to submit orders if they would like. There is a call for a four-way F/I/E/T draw. Vote on it with the spring orders. The German adjustments were left out above, and will appear below:

./.....

Germany (Albrecht) NMR! GM removes A Sil.

.....

Press:

TURKEY to ITALY: I hope you read my builds correctly the lack of correspondence isn't anything but time pressure. Sorry! Let's get em.

.....

1981K GRIED a note!

Dan Stafford became rather upset with the delays in this game and requested that it be rehoused. (And I really don't blame him for this, there is nothing more unpleasant to a player than to have a game delayed--a game in which you are doing well--by gamemaster apathy. I made the arrangements to have this game rehoused in Ron Brown's Murd'ring Ministers and the game would have resumed there in August. But apparently Stafford preferred having it go to Eric Ozog's 'zine (whatever the name of it is).

Apparently you can find the game there now. Two players (albeit standby players) were apparently not invited to continue the game. Apparently other standby players were invited to take their places. Even more bizarre is the fact that Dave Arnett who resigned the game has apparently resumed the English position. Bob Arnett (similar name) was the English standby and submitted orders for three seasons--but was not invited to continue the game.

John H. Masters
25711 No. Vista Fwys. Dr.
Valencia, CA 91355

- ☒ Sample
☐ Please plug
☐ See page _____



Thanks for
Permission

John

Larry Peery
Box 8416
San Diego, CA 92102

FIRST CLASS MAIL

USA 20c

Fossil fuels KNOXING World's Fair